AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF INDIAN OCEAN: ITS ROLE FOR DETERMINING INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM 1999 TO 2019

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A Synopsis for Ph.D Degree in Political Science

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State of the Art

The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world. It connects the four continents Asia, Australia, Africa and Antarctica. Its major chokepoints are the Strait of Hormuz, Babel Mandeb, Suez Canal, Mozambique Channel, Strait of Malacca, Strait of Sunda and Strait of Lombok. The importance of the Indian Ocean has increased significantly after the Second World War. The main reasons for which are the Indian Ocean itself being a large waterway, Middle East's energy reserves, international trade, mineral reserves, islands from a strategic point of view, the rise of China and India in Asia, etc. The Indian Ocean world is such an area. What is turbulent and stable, the reason for this unrest and instability is the rivalry between the superpowers. In the context of the Indian Ocean, Al Fred Mahan had said that the one who controls the Indian Ocean will establish dominance over Asia. Even today this statement is as relevant in the 21st century as it was in the 19thcentury. The rise of China and India in Asia has changed the scenario of world politics but in the last two decades there has been unprecedented rise of China which India considers as its enemy.

China has not only been causing trouble in the northern region but is also making inroads in the southern region under its String of Pearls. Which is a matter of concern for India. India is attempting to respond to China's string of pearls policy through its necklace of diamond policy. Pannikar writes that the responsibility of India's security depends on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the power for India to establish a strong presence. There is a concentration of powerful nations in this region where India also plays a decisive role. India's peninsular position makes it special in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean is very important for India from many points of view. First of all, India's peninsular position in the Indian Ocean makes India important. The security of India's southern tip depends on the Indian Ocean. In Indian Ocean India as a net security provider in this region, more than 90% international trade, large waterways, more than 80% energy supply, immense reserves of minerals, immense possibilities of fisheries, education and research etc.

Problem to be investigated

1. How the world politics became the arena of powerful nations in indian ocean. In which India is a important player in Indian Ocean region.

2. To know the position of India and super powers like USA, Russia, Britain, and China.

3. How the island countries are important for India and super powers from strategic and tactical perspectives.

Research Aim and Motivation

1. To study the significance of Indian ocean for India

2. To study India's challenges in Indian Ocean

3. To study the possibilities in the Indian ocean for India

4. To study the India' s relation with IOR countries

Research Hypothesis

1. The peace in the indian ocean is essential for India’s all round development.

2. The presence of super powers USA, Russia and China in the indian ocean is a matter of concern for India.

3. India’s peninsular location in indian ocean makes her a important player in Indian Ocean Region.

Research methodology

The research methodology used on this topic will be historical, descriptive, qualitative, quantitative and analytical. Historical method will be used to understand the historical perspective of the Indian Ocean. Descriptive and analytical methods will be used to understand the position and presence of India, superpowers like USA, Russia, China and smaller countries in the Indian Ocean.

Data Collection

Secondary sources will be used to collect the facts. Books, articles, newspapers, magazines, governed government website, etc will be used under secondary sources.

Significance of study

India has 7500 km maritime boundary line in the Indian Ocean. Maintaining India's maritime security is essential for its national security. From India's perspective, the three major SLOCs in the Indian Ocean are the Strait of Malacca, Bab Al Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz. Despite all the rivalries in the Indian Ocean, where more than 80% of India's energy supply and more than 90% of international trade takes place, India must continue to protect its national interests and pursue its interests through diplomacy.

Relevance of the subject

Today this topic is relevant. In the 19th century, Alfred Mahan had said that he who controls the Indian Ocean will establish dominance over Asia. But in the 21st century, control over the Indian Ocean is making an impact on the Asia including World. India's peninsular position in the Indian Ocean makes it an important player. The great power rivalry on the Indian Ocean has created unrest and instability here, especially the growing influence of

China is a concern for India, as we consider them an enemy. But the Indian Ocean is gaining ground and is very important for India from the security and development point of view. From here we are connected with international trade, India's security, mineral reserves and energy supply etc.

Contribution to the existing knowledge

Sanjeev Sanyal, In his book, **The Ocean of churn: How the Indian ocean shaped human history,** 2017 'details history from East Africa to Australia, including Angkor, Vijayanagara, the medieval Arab Empire and China. The author challenges established histories and sheds light on the lost city by drawing on fresh evidence from archaeological sites, maritime trade networks, and oral story telling in detail.

K.M Panikkar book's, '**India and the Indian ocean: An essay on the influence of sea power in Indian history,** 2021 'tells that India's security depends on the Indian Ocean. There is rivalry among global powers here, hence India's peninsular position is in the ocean. If India has to protect its national security and its borders, then it will have to strengthen its navy. Author even It also says that India should create a separate Navy Ministry so that it can strengthen its naval activities or its influence on the Indian Ocean and this seems necessary for India in view of the rivalry.

Dr. R Suresh, **'Maritime security of India the coastal security challenges and policy options,** 2015. This book focuses on various aspects of maritime security of India.

Admiral James Stavridis, 'Sea power the history and geopolitics of the world's oceans, 2008 'explains how sea power has determined world power since the conflict between the Greeks and the Persians. The Admiral shows us how the geography of the oceans has shaped how naval powers have shaped the world we live in. And Where We Will Be Tomorrow provides the latest information on naval activity, taking a close look at the likely sites of the next major naval conflicts in the Arctic Ocean, the East Mediterranean and the South China Sea.

Sandeep Kumar. S, **The Indian ocean great game unfolding interest, determinants and perspective,** 2020 ' In this book tells that The rise of China in the last 20 years has become a theater of competition between Asian powers and America. This region in Asia is important in many ways. The Indian Ocean connects four continents. This route is very important from the point of view of energy supply and commerce across the world. Therefore, powerful nations are constantly striving to protect their interests through control over this region.

Vice Admiral Mihir K. Roy, '**War in the Indian Ocean**, 1995 'It tells the story of the sailors and the ships in conflict, highlighting the role of maritime forces in both conflict and cooperation against the backdrop of Asian maritime blindness in the Indian Ocean. For the first time in 1946, there was an emotional revolt by Royal Indian Navy sailors. Later, there were naval operations at Junagadh and Goa. It mentions India's naval activities and policy making, but also mentions maritime operations in Somalia, Maldives and Sri Lanka at the southern end of the Indian Ocean. Determines the state's policy objectively including up to Africa and Australia.

Chapterisation

1. Introduction of the Indian ocean
2. India in the Indian ocean
3. Relation and diplomatic observance with different nations
4. Conflict in the Indian ocean region and their impact on India
5. Super powers and International organizations in Indian Ocean Region
6. Challenges, Conclusion and suggestions for India

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